

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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NEWS ITEMS, NOTICES AND REPORTS MUST BE SENT TO THE OFFICE NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY EVENING OF EACH WEEK, IF THEY ARE TO APPEAR IN THE CURRENT NUMBER.

TRANSIENT NOTICES, FIFTY CENTS FOR EIGHT LINES, EACH INSERTION. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PERMANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

STATE TREASURER GEO. M. WRIGHT died on Thursday, of this week, at his residence in Bordentown. His term of office would have expired in March and the legislature would in joint meeting be called upon to elect his successor. It is believed that ex-Sheriff John J. Tolley, of Hudson, who only lacked two votes of beating Mr. Wright for this office in 1882, will be selected.

THE Legislature will convene on Tuesday, of next week, and both houses will be organized by the Republicans. At present the indications are that Hon. John W. Griggs, of Passaic, will be chosen to preside over the Senate, and that the Speaker of the House will come from West Jersey, in the person of Mr. Armstrong, of Camden. Mr. Jenkins, of Morris, has a novel claim upon this office as he was the caucus nominee last year of the Republicans, but he will probably be compelled to stand to one side if East Jersey furnishes a President for the Senate.

Among the matters which will be presented to the Legislature this year will be a bill creating a non-partisan police board for Newark. In view of the action of the last Democratic Council in turning out all the experienced officers to make a place for political hammers, it would seem that some such move was needed. A good way to prevent such things in future would be to continue to elect a Republican Council. It is also proposed to annex that portion of Hudson county which lies west of the Hackensack river to Essex. This would add a large strip of comparatively worthless territory to a county which many of us would be glad to see divided. Hudson county is small enough now in area, and we fail to see how East Newark and Kearney could be any gain to Essex. The probability is that some individual has a scheme to accomplish by this measure, and it will be well to be on the lookout for the gentleman of color who is in the fence.

More than fifteen houses are now in course of erection in the township, and we are informed that there is a demand for many more. The experience of those who built houses in 1883 and 1884 is very satisfactory, and proves conclusively that this kind of investment will be very profitable. Although real estate is more troublesome than a savings bank deposit or a Government bond, it is just as secure and pays a higher rate of interest. Hard times will be likely to compel many persons of moderate means to leave New York and come to the country, and if we had one hundred new houses in this town to rent, we have no doubt they would all be taken, and by a class of people whom experience shows, make good and useful and intelligent citizens. Wages are not as high as they were last year, and building materials are also cheaper, and if the owners of vacant lots would at once improve them they could do so at reasonable rates and would also furnish work for many mechanics and laborers who are in danger of coming to want during the winter.

The Week of Prayer.

With to-day's closing hours will end a week of prayer. Throughout the world believers in the Protestant faith, without regard to differences of habit, situation, or nationality, with one accord, send up their prayers to Almighty God for his blessings. There is a power in unity. The ocean is grand because of the operation of far-reaching causes over minute and insignificant particles of matter. The silent forces of the deep move with resistless power. It bears upon its bosom the navies of the world. As its swelling tides follow the course of the moon, so the countless worshippers of Christendom turn their hearts to the Most High.

Yet, what has the modern world got to do with prayer? Half a century back Thomas Carlyle preached the Gospel of individualism. Each generation follows the light of genius—the world is controlled

by its heroes. Now constitutions, laws and systems are the hope of mankind. The early Jews believed in the personal director of the universe: the modern scientist worships the "power which makes for righteousness"—the Unknown and the Unknowable. In his laboratory he tests the secrets of life, with his measuring rod he computes the length and breadth of the world. Individual efforts account for success; life and death are the results of immutable laws. The fittest shall survive and conquer; the weak must falter and decay. Why, then, talk of prayer? Where is its power? Who shall answer? Life is but a dull, empty struggle for existence. He who dies sinks out of sight, like a passenger swept from the deck of a ship in mid-ocean, with none to mourn his loss. The world with all its harshness refuses to believe such philosophy;—sees the vanity of earthly treasures, longs for joys more substantial, and a life more enduring. Beyond man's highest thoughts is still a grander world. We look into the starry sky, worlds without number greet us. We invent the telescope, and a vaster universe is shown; a larger telescope, and still the heavens expand. Beyond our ken are there other worlds, new suns, new systems of planets? Who then shall measure the illimitable? Who shall decide where almighty power shall end? The little child, puzzled with his difficulties, seeks a higher intelligence; yet God, we are told, is completely known. His laws are few, His ways understood. How life sustains the plant, how food supports the body, how fire burns, or the brain directs the muscles, we do not know; yet with astonishing audacity we claim to know the All-wise, and to legislate Him outside the universe.

It is, indeed, true that no test can demonstrate the use of prayer. Nor can its uselessness be shown. Faith must guide the earnest worshipper; and as the hard heart melts beneath the Spirit's warmth, it will be said, as it was of Paul, behold, he prayeth. As the ice which encases the earth is dissolved by the breath of Spring, time, the tender blades of grass gather strength for a new life, so we may see a new power in this awakening of the Christian world. With the celebration of the birth of Christ on Christmas day, and the opening of a new year, it is fit that the Christian world should show signs of life by a world-wide season of prayer. The hand may be skillful, the mind may be keen, but the hard heart must be broken before the world may enter upon the joys of the millennium. The most momentous intelligence which tongue can tell, or telegraph, railroad, printing-press carry, is that this hitherto selfish, profane, wicked world has taken the humble position of the Apostle Paul, and "Behold, it prayeth."

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